

REMARKS

The Applicants submit the current Amendment in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination of the present application filed concurrently with this Amendment. By this amendment, changes have been made in certain claims as set forth above to overcome the Examiner's rejections set forth in the Final Office Action. Claims 1-20 remain in the application for reconsideration by the Examiner. The Examiner's allowance of all pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Within the first set of claims comprising claims 1-12, the Examiner has rejected claim 1 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over Mizuno (5,276,509) and Huang (5,748,904).

The Applicant proposes to amend claim 1 as indicated above. In particular, paragraph (c) has been revised to recite, "assigning a second instruction to a plurality of successive data pixels, wherein the second instruction comprises a first bit field indicating the number of successive colored data pixels and comprises a second bit field for each colored data pixel, and wherein contents of the second bit field indicate the color of the associated colored data pixel, and wherein the second bit field can specify any of the n colors for each one of the plurality of successive data pixels, and wherein a length of the second instruction is variable as determined by the number of successive colored data pixels and the number of bits required to designate one of the n different colors for each colored data pixel. Support for these changes can be found in the specification in paragraphs [0032] through [0035].

Claim 1 has been rejected under Mizuno in view of Huang, with specific reference to Huang's text in column 5, beginning at line 50. As can be seen from Figure 9, which represents the bit-map coding scheme described in Huang's referenced text, this coding scheme can encode each pixel with one of two different colors, i.e., a first color designated by index0 color or a second color designated by index1 color. The color index0 segment and the color index1 segment each identify a single color in the color register 10. Thus the Figure 9 codeword is capable of designating either one of two colors for the bit-mapped pixels. Note Huang's comment in line 44 of column 3 that the bit map encoder (which encodes the pixels according to one of the three bit map encoding schemes of Figure 9, 10 or 11) generally gives the most efficient compression for pixels of text data having only two colors. Each bit in the 50-bit bit-map segment of Figure 9 denotes the color for a corresponding pixel. A 0 bit in the bit-map field

designates the color indexed by the index0 field for the pixel. A 1 bit in the bit-map field designates the color indexed by the index1 field for the pixel. Additional bit map fields, identical to the bit map field of Figure 9, designate any of two colors (by setting different values in the index0 and index1 fields) for other pixels in the display.

In contrast, as the Applicant has amended claim 1, the Applicant's second instruction can designate n colors for each pixel and the second bit field of the second instruction can specify any of the n colors for the each of the denoted colored pixels. Note as described above, Huang can designate only one of two colors in any one codeword. To designate a colored pixel with a third color, Huang is required to begin a new code word.

Further, the Applicant's second instruction does not have a fixed length, but instead the length is variable and dependent on the number of successive data pixels and the number of bits required to designate one of the n different colors for each of the data pixels. For example, in a 32-color display, the Applicant requires five bits to designate one of the 32 colors. In an image line in which 90 successive pixels are colored data pixels, the length of the second instruction is the product of the number of bits required to identify each of the 32 colors (five bits) and the number of pixels (90). Thus the Applicant's second instruction comprises 450 bits in this example of 90 successive colored pixels. The Huang code word of Figure 9 is distinguished since he can designate only two different colors and the bit map portion of his codeword is limited to 50 bits, permitting him to specify only one of two colors for only 50 bits. As the example set forth above illustrates, the Applicant's second instruction is not limited in length.

Note further that unlike the Applicant's invention as set forth in amended claim 1, Huang's indices do not directly identify the color, but instead point to a second bit field that specifically identifies the color. Huang uses each one of his two four-bit color indices to point to a color register that stores either a 16-bit color or a 24-bit color. By indicating one of the two four-bit color indices, Huang can designate either one of two 16-bit colors or either one of two 24-bit colors using only four bits. Again, Huang's scheme is to be contrasted with the Applicant's, where the pixel colors are set forth directly in the instruction.

Huang was specifically cited against the elements of Applicant's paragraph (c), in combination with Mizuno. Since it has been shown that the Applicants revisions to claim 1,

including revisions to paragraph (c), distinguish the invention from Huang, amended claim 1 is allowable over the cited art.

As to the combination of Mizuno and Huang (and the other reference combinations set forth in the final Office Action), the Examiner suggests that the references are combinable because they each have aspects from the same field of endeavor. The Applicant suggests that this is not a proper basis for combining two (or more) references. Instead, there must be a disclosure, motivation or suggestion in the references to make the combination. Nor is there any disclosure as to how the combination can be made workable.

Each of the dependent claims 2-12, depending either directly or indirectly from amended independent claim 1, has been rejected under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over Mizuno and Huang alone or in conjunction with one or more of Matsushiro (6,301,300), Imade (5,872,864), Tateyama (5,517,077), Cullen (5,781,665), Kelly (6,448,922), and Ozaki (5,345,316). The specific patents cited against each of the claims 1-12 is set forth in the Examiner's comprehensive final rejection and need not be repeated here.

It is respectfully submitted that each of the dependent claims 2-12, depending from amended independent claim 1, includes one or more elements that further patentably distinguish the invention over the art of record. These claims should therefore be in condition for allowance with the allowance of claim 1 based on the Applicant's arguments presented above.

Independent claim 13 stands rejected under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over Mizuno, Huang, Matsushiro, Cullen, Imade and Kelly.

As discussed above in conjunction with the rejection of and amendments to claim 1, neither Mizuno nor Huang disclose at least the limitations of claim 13 as added by the current Amendment. Further, Mizuno does not disclose such a limitation since it relates solely to bi-level images (i.e., having only black or white pixels). Cullen relates to cropping an image and not to instructions having a length determined as set forth in amended claim 13. Imade discloses an image compression technique including binarization of the image data and extracts features from the image based on image kind. Kelly discloses techniques related to combining ground based weather radar data with on-board weather radar indicators. Claim 13 is therefore allowable over the cited art.

As to rejected dependent claims 14-16 depending from claim 13 and all rejected under Mizuno and Huang and various combinations of Matsushiro, Cullen, Imade, Kelly and Fukumoto (JP 2001-265316), it is suggested that each of these dependent claims includes one or more elements that further distinguish over the art of record and therefore these claims should be in condition for allowance.

Claim 17 stands rejected under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over Mizuno, Huang, Matsushiro, Cullen, Imade and Kelly.

Claim 17 has been amended as set forth above to overcome the cited rejections. As discussed above in conjunction with the rejection of and amendments to independent claims 1 and 13, the amendments set forth above to claim 17 are not disclosed or suggested by the cited art, in particular, amended claim 17 is patentably distinct from Huang. Therefore claim 17 is believed to be in allowable condition.

Claim 18 is rejected under Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizuno, Huang, Matsushiro, Cullen, Imade, and Kelly and further in view of Wendt (4,422,180).

Claim 18 has been amended as set forth above. The remarks set forth with regard to the rejection of claim 1 and the limitations added thereto according to this amendment apply with equal force to claim 18 and its amendments.

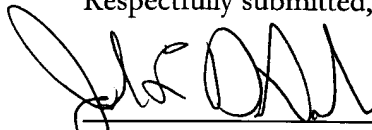
Dependent claims 19 and 20 have been rejected under Section 103(a) over one or more of Mizuno, Huang, Matsushiro, Cullen, Imade, Kelly, Wendt, Marey (3,916,436) and Waguri (6,370,278). Each of these claims is believed distinguishable over the art of record as each claim includes further elements distinguished from the cited art.

It is believed that the claims as presented herein in conjunction with the Request for Continued Examination distinguish the invention from the art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider his rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all claims pending in the application. Further, the Applicant has attempted to comply with all the points raised in the final Office Action. In view of the foregoing amendments and discussion, it is requested that the Examiner's final Office Action claim rejections have been overcome.

The Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time of three months under 37 C.F.R. 1.136. A check in the amount of \$1,810.00, which includes the \$1,020.00 extension fee, as well as the \$790.00 RCE fee, is enclosed.

If a telephone conference will assist in clarifying or expediting this Amendment or the claim changes made herein, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Amendment, accompanying an RCE, is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 14th day of December 2005.



Pamela A. Pagel